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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
Medical Officer of Health  
for the YEAR  
1946.

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L. WILSON EVANS, M.C., M.B., D.P.H.

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OSWESTRY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

*With the Compliments of  
The Medical Officer of Health.*

CASTLE VIEW,  
OSWESTRY.



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To The Oswestry Rural District Council.

Mr Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1946.

The Minister of Health has directed that the report be prepared on the lines of that for 1945, so it will not assume its pre-war comprehensiveness.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

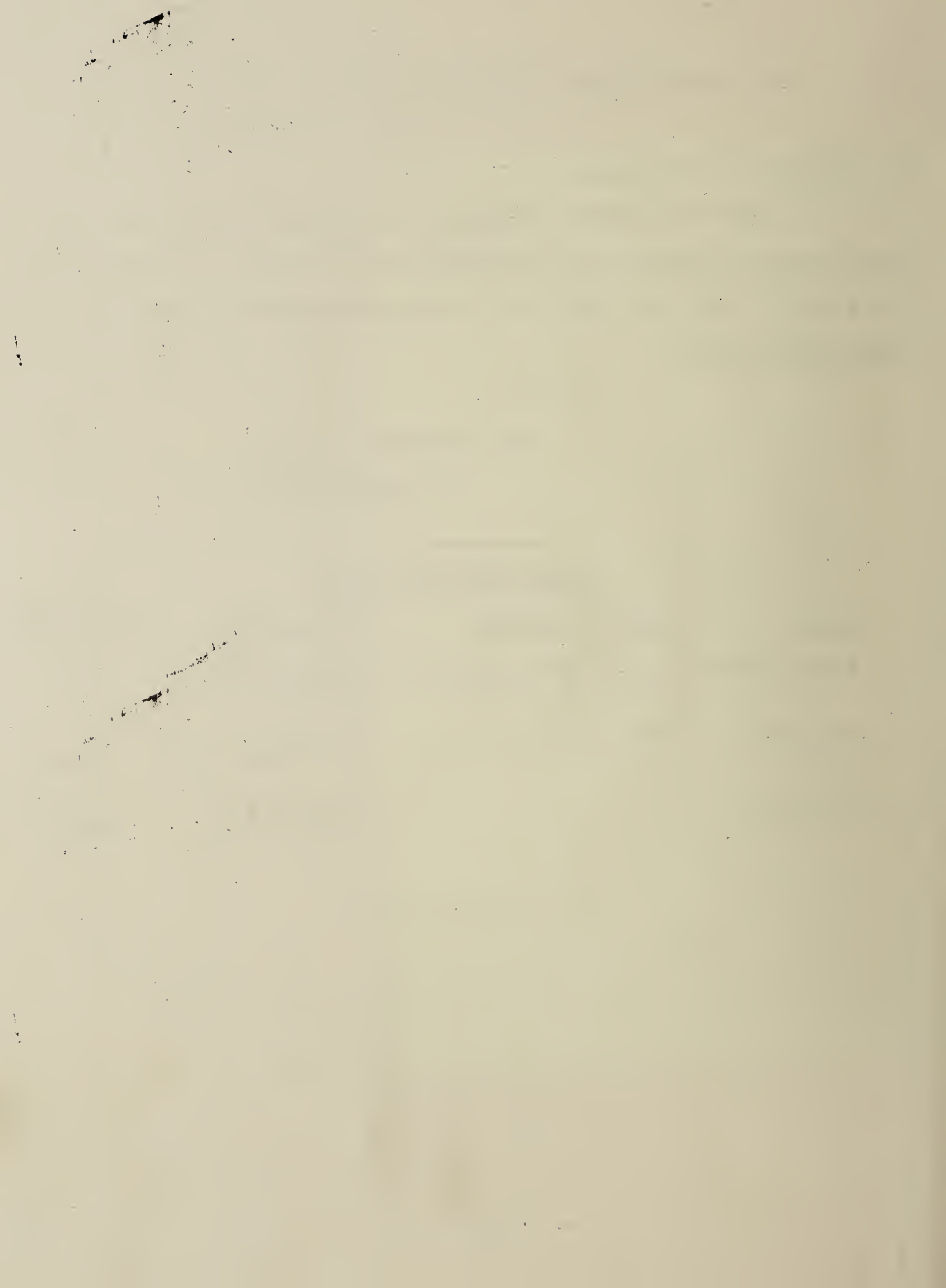
L. WILSON EVANS.

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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

<u>Name.</u>	<u>Qualifications.</u>	<u>Office Held.</u>	<u>Whole or Part time.</u>
L. Wilson Evans.	M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.	Medical Officer of Health.	Part.
H. Haskayne.	C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.	Sanitary Inspector.	Whole.
G. Holloway.		Clerk and Assistant.	Whole.

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# Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year 1946.

Estimated Population.

17,090.

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Number of Births.			
Legitimate	141	149	290
Illegitimate	11	8	19
Totals.	152	157	309

Birth Rate per 1000 population .....	18.00
Birth Rate Oswestry Borough .....	17.8
Birth Rate England and Wales .....	19.1

<u>Still Births.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	5	5	10
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Still Birth Rate per 1000 population .....	0.59
Still Birth Rate Oswestry Borough .....	0.64
Still Birth Rate England and Wales .....	0.53

## Deaths. Infants under 1 year of age.

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate	6	5	11
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Infant mortality i.e.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 1000 births	36.
Infant mortality Oswestry Borough	56.
Infant mortality England and Wales	43.

<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
	103	99	202.

Death Rate per 1000 population .....	11.8.
Death Rate per 1000 population Oswestry Borough .....	11.9.
Death Rate per 1000 population England and Wales .....	11.5.

## Chief Causes of Death.

	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Heart Disease .....	26	28
Cancer .....	11	14
Intracranial Vascular Lesions .....	8	15
Other Diseases of Circulatory System .....	10	10
Violence .....	11	5
Bronchitis .....	2	8
Hepatitis .....	6	2







	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Pneumonia .....	3	2
Other respiratory diseases .....	1	3
Digestive Diseases .....	2	2
Tuberculosis .....	1	2

There were no deaths from Measles, Whooping Cough, Diarrhoea under 2 years of age and no deaths of mothers as a result of child birth.

Maternal mortality for England and Wales 1.06 per 1000 births. The population as estimated by the Registrar General gives an increase of 310 over last year and the excess of births over deaths gives a natural increase of 107. There was an increase of 20 in the number of births and one of 26 in the number of deaths. The increase was largely accounted for by more deaths from Cancer and deaths by violence, the figures being 25 and 16 against 17 and 6 respectively last year, while Bronchitis, Pneumonia also were up on last year.

The figure for infant mortality is slightly lower than last year, and continues considerably less than that for the County as a whole, but there was a high proportion of infants dying in the first five weeks of life. 8 out of the 10 infants who died succumbed in their first week.

The deaths distributed according to ages were as follows:-

0-1week.	1 month.	8 months.
8	1	1

Three of the 8 were due to prematurity and four to congenital defect, six of the seven were born in hospital, the cause of death of the eighth was accident.



Prevalence of, and Control Over, Infectious Diseases.

Notification of Infectious Disease.

Distribution according to age and sex.

Ages in Years.	Measles.		Pneumonia.		Scarlet Fever.		Whooping Cough.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1
1-3	2	-	-	-	-	1	2	8
3-5	3	-	-	-	-	1	9	6
5-10	2	5	-	-	6	2	14	14
10-15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-25	-	-	-	1	3	-	1	-
25-45	-	-	-	3	1	1	-	-
45-65	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over.	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Totals.	7	5	2	4	10	5	29	29

Distribution through the months of the year.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
Measles.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	10	12.
Pneumonia.	-	3	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	6.
Scarlet Fever.	2	4	-	1	1	4	-	2	-	1	-	-	15
Whooping Cough	-	4	2	3	3	-	14	10	7	4	4	7	58
Totals.	2	11	2	4	4	5	17	12	7	5	5	17	91



Five cases of Scarlet Fever were removed to the Isolation Hospital Morda. There were four non-civilians among the 15 cases. There was also one non-civilian case of Dip<sup>h</sup>theria, two of cerebral Spinal Fever, and one of the Pneumonia cases was a non-civilian.

In addition to those cases in the tables the following were notified:-

Acute Poliomyelitis.	1.
Dysentery.	1.
Erysipelas.	3.
Puerperal Pyrexia.	1.

There was a reduction in all notifiable diseases except Whooping Cough, from which there was one death.

#### Dip<sup>h</sup>theria Immunisation.

	Under 5 years.	5-14 years.
No. of children who had the full course of immunisation during the year.	207	31
No. who received a reinforcing dose.	-	44
Included in the above are 11 children who were done by their private doctor.		
The total number of children considered to be immunised at 31st December, 1946.	696	2541
Estimated child population.	1350	2600
Percentage of child population immunised at 31st December, 1946.	52%	88%





As last year there were no cases of Dip<sup>h</sup>theria among the civilian population but although the present state of immunisation no doubt helps to check the spread of Dip<sup>h</sup>theria, the present freedom from Dip<sup>h</sup>theria must not give the false impression that this deadly disease has vanished like plague and cholera, although it is possible to get near that happy state if all parents would take advantage of the easy means of prevention offered them. As things are at present with only just over half of the children under 5 years of age known to be protected, there can be no assurance that we shall not have outbreaks in the future. All usual means of acquainting parents with the advantages of immunisation and of the facilities provided for them are used by the County Council, the press, wireless, posters, the cinema and the postal service have all been used while verbal information and exhortation are given to the parents in their homes by health visitors and school nurses, and also in the schools, welfare centres and clinics, and your Council gives them the opportunity of having their children done by their own doctor in his surgery or in their home instead of having to take them to a school or clinic. No one with eyes to read or ears to hear can fail to be informed of what immunisation can do to save their children from one of the most deadly diseases of childhood and by what means they can have the simple protecting injections given. Since no parents need be unaware of the facts of immunisation what is the reason for nearly half of the children, about 650, under 5 years of age not being protected, apathy, lack of intelligence, laziness, indifference or just obstinacy?





Whatever the reason the children of such parents have a 25 times greater chance of dying from Dip<sup>h</sup>theria than those whose parents have taken the simple and safe precautions to protect them.

Experience has shown that ~~it~~ is advisable that one further dose ~~is advisable~~ <sup>SHOULD BE GIVEN</sup> when a child, who has been immunised in its first year or so, starts school. A few children have had this additional dose during the year. To ensure full protection after a lapse of a few years all parents would be well advised to have their children given the reinforcing dose.

#### Scabies.

Twenty three cases of Scabies were dealt with during the year. Most of them cleared up fairly quickly under treatment and there was no evidence of the spread outside the families. In two cases the disease recurred after an interval of quiescence. In one of these the infection continued intermittently for some months, the Scabies Order 1941 was invoked to compel the father to be medically examined. He was found to be suffering from Scabies and received treatment. The slothful and dirty habits of this family contributed to the long continuance of the trouble.

There was no accommodation for the hospital treatment of cases needing such treatment. The County Council whose responsibility it is under the Scabies Order 1941 to provide hospital treatment closed all its sick bays and provided no alternative facilities for inpatient treatment.



## Tuberculosis.

	<u>Respiratory.</u>		<u>Non-respiratory.</u>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
New cases.	2	4	2	1
Service cases.	5	-	-	-
Cases transferred from other districts.	2	1	-	-
Admitted to Sanatorium.	3	4	-	-
Deaths.	2	3	-	-

### Distribution of cases according to age.

0-5. 5-15. 15-20. 20-30. 30-40. 40-50. 50 and over.  
M.F. M.F. M. F. M. F. M. F. M. F. M. F.

Respiratory	-	-	-	-	1	-	4	3	2	-	2	2	-	-
Non-Respiratory	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

### Number of cases on Register at December 31st, 1946.

Respiratory.	M.	F.	Non-respiratory.	M.	F.
	37	26		31	27

There was a slight increase in both the number of new cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis and of deaths from this form of the disease. The largest number of cases discovered, as in recent years, has been among men in the forces. This may be accounted for by the extensive and more exact methods of examination used in the forces i.e. by mass X-ray, also there are probably a certain number of cases where the disease remains quiescent as long as living conditions are fairly easy but asserts itself under the exacting conditions of war service.





In this regard it is significant that the average age of notifications of respiratory tuberculosis in men during the war years is considerably younger than during the years before the war, while that for women is unchanged.

Average age at notification for the seven year period	Men.	Women.
1933-1939	36	34
1940-1946	31	34

The average number of cases notified annually shows a slight increase for men and a decrease for women.

Average number of cases notified for the seven year period.	Men.	Women.
1933-1939	6	5
1940-1946	7	4

This seems to point to the earlier diagnosis of cases in men during the war years either at the medical examination at the time of their call up or during service, with the probability that at least some of the cases were discovered at an earlier stage than they would have been in civil life. They would therefore have the added chance of recovery. These measures for early diagnosis should not have to wait on the circumstances of war. There are theoretically means of medical examination by all who want it now, but few doctors or patients have adopted the preventive examination. A method perhaps more likely of general use would be the greater extension of mass radiography, with regular sessions at various centres in the district and with preliminary publicity and education in the form of posters and visiting films and lectures.





The use of this method of early diagnosis in the County has not gone very far yet.

It is satisfactory to note that the upward trend of non-respiratory tuberculosis previously noted has halted. Only half the number of cases notified in 1945 occurred during the year.

#### HOUSING.

The Survey in accordance with the Hobhouse Report was commenced during the year following the completion of the deliberations of the Technical Sub-committee which was appointed by the County Advisory Committee as set out in paragraph 115 of the report. The object of the Sub-Committee was to adopt uniform standards for demolition, reconditioning and repairs, and to arrange for the comprehensive survey and periodic inspection of Rural Housing conditions as suggested in Chapter 7 of the report. Standards were recommended to the advisory Committee which eventually adopted them and houses were to be placed into the four categories laid down in the Report.

Category 1. Houses fit for habitation or satisfactory in all respects.

Category 2. Houses with minor defects.

Category 3. Houses with major defects requiring repairs, structural alterations and improvement.

Category 4. Houses requiring demolition.



As a result there should be no marked difference of standard in the different rural districts in the County. It is obviously an advantage that there should be uniformity of standard throughout the Country and that as high as possible.

Housing Survey to December 31st, 1946.

Weston Rhyn.

Percentage of  
Houses Inspected.

Number Inspected	334.	
Number in Category 1.	35	11%
Number in Category 2.	175	52%
Number in Category 3.	55	17%
Number in Category 4.	69	20%
Overcrowded	9	3%

Selattyn.

Number Inspected	122.	
Number in Category 1.	8	7%
Number in Category 2.	42	34%
Number in Category 3.	60	49%
Number in Category 4.	12	10%
Overcrowded	0	NIL

Oswestry Rural.

Number Inspected	475.	
Number in Category 1.	38	8%
Number in Category 2.	172	36%
Number in Category 3.	164	35%
Number in Category 4.	101	21%
Overcrowded	32	7%

St. Martins.

Number Inspected	231	
Number in Category 1.	3	1%
Number in Category 2.	27	12%
Number in Category 3.	176	77%
Number in Category 4.	25	10%
Overcrowded	10	4%



Whittington.

		Percentage of houses inspected.
Number Inspected	283.	
Number in Category 1.	4	1%
Number in Category 2.	29	10%
Number in Category 3.	174	62%
Number in Category 4.	76	27%
Overcrowded	13	5%

Totals.

		Percentage.
Inspected	1444	
Category 1.	88	6%
Category 2.	444	31%
Category 3.	628	44%
Category 4.	284	19%
Number of houses overcrowded	64	4%

Chief defects found in houses placed in Category 3.

	<u>Frankton.</u>	<u>St. Martins.</u>
Dampness .....	12	138
Unsatisfactory Water supply .....	6	33
Unsatisfactory drainage and Sanitary Accommodation .....	14	56
Insufficient light and ventilation and low ceilings .....	7	38
General external and internal dilapidations .....	15	155
Food store lacking or defective .....	12	73
No back door .....	8	22
Bath .....	-	22
Bad arrangement of rooms .....	-	66

With the progress of the housing survey (the inspection and recording of 1444 of the houses to be surveyed had been completed at the end of the year) a partial picture of the housing conditions in the district and the work required to be done to improve these conditions can be formed.





The problem of deciding as to in what way the information obtained from the survey can be used to the advantage of the occupants of the 912 houses, 628 requiring major repairs or structural alterations and 284 which should be demolished, is a formidable one and will require very earnest and careful consideration, for the alleviation of the conditions ascertained does not in these times easily follow the knowledge of the existence of such housing conditions; the houses so bad as to be incapable of repair cannot be demolished, A learned judge in dismissing an application for a demolition order has said that any house was better than no house, and in these days of acute shortage and poor prospects of satisfying the demand for houses the purpose of the Hobhouse Report, which recommended the Survey, of raising the standard of houses in Rural Areas looks like being frustrated by circumstances for many years, and an even lower standard than that previously aimed at will have to be tolerated. The patching up of houses that should be demolished and the minimum repairs of the worst of the other houses seems to be the best one can hope for at the present time, but if it should in any way be possible for steps to be taken to remedy some of the worst defects they should be taken.

As a result of the survey made under the Housing Act (overcrowding) <sup>INC.</sup> 1935 to estimate the degree of overcrowding, the percentage of overcrowding then existing over the whole district was 4.2. the percentage of overcrowding in the 1444 houses now surveyed is 4.4.





The majority of the cases in 1935-36 were abated by the provision of Council Houses by the Council so as was to be expected the position shows deterioration due to the cessation of building during the war. There are no larger houses available for the increased families and in many instances married sons and daughters have had to share their homes with their parents.

New Houses completed or erected during the Year.

By the Local Authority:	Weston Rhyn	16
	Swedish Houses.	
	Llanymynech	4
	Knockin	4
	Temporary Bungalows:-	
	Whittington	9
	Gobowen	10
	Morda	9
For private owners		2
	Total .....	<u>54</u>

Local Authority's Housing Programme.

First Year (Contracts let)

Whittington	16
Gobowen	22
West Felton	10
Ruyton-Xl-Towns	6
Selattyn	4

Second Year (Likely to be amended)

Trefonen	8
Porthywaen	14
Kinnerley and Knockin	12
Selattyn	4
Llanymynech	10
St. Martins.	40
Weston Rhyn	30
Maesbury	8
Gobowen	12
Whittington	12



## Water Supplies.

The area served by piped supplies was satisfactory in quality and quantity except in the case of Selattyn and Trefonen where the quality was not up to the desired standard, while parts of St. Martins and Trefonen were at times short of water.

Selattyn and Trefonen are included in the scheme for an improved water supply, while the laying on of a new main in St. Martins which is expected to be carried out in the coming year should remedy the shortage in parts of that area.

The areas served by piped supplies are as follows:-

### From Public Supplies.

#### Weston Rhyn, St. Martins, Hengoed and Gcbowen.

Number of houses supplied .....	1111
Population supplied .....	5000

#### Bronygarth.

Number of houses supplied .....	62
Number of Population supplied .....	280

#### Whittington.

Number of houses supplied .....	356
Number of Population supplied .....	1600

#### Morda.

Number of houses supplied .....	233
Number of Population supplied .....	1050

#### Trefonen.

Number of houses supplied .....	107
Number of Population supplied .....	481

#### Sweeney, Pant, Llanymynech, Llyncllys Hill, Porthywaen, Gronwen.

Number of houses supplied .....	356
Number of Population supplied .....	1600



Maesbury.

Number of houses supplied .....	89
Number of Population supplied .....	400

Nantmawr.

Number of houses supplied .....	21
Number of Population supplied .....	95

Hindford.

Number of houses supplied .....	10
Number of Population supplied .....	45

Total number of houses supplied .....	2345
Total number of Population supplied .....	10551

Number of houses served direct .....	2310
Number of Population served direct .....	10394
Number of houses served by standpipes .....	35
Number of Population served by standpipes .....	157

Private Supplies.

Selattyn.

Number of Houses .....	22
Number of Population .....	100

Knockin and Kinnerley.

Number of houses .....	48
Number of Population .....	216

Total number of houses .....	70
Total number of Population .....	316

In the remaining parts of the district the supply is from pumps, wells, springs and streams, in all parts there are houses which are a long way from the supply. Those most urgently in need of improved supplies are Frankton, Kinnerley, Pentre and Holverley, Treflach, The Racecourse, West Felton and Morton, in addition to Ruyton-Xl-Towns where the position is one of special urgency.





- The majority of the houses there are dependent on water brought round to the houses from the bore supplying the Kraft Dairies. Many complaints have been received of the intermittent nature of delivery, the inadequacy of the quantity and the heavy cost of the water, it is primitive and most unsatisfactory method of supplying the village of some 150 to 200 houses. The risk of contamination in the course of handling, conveyance, and storing of the water cannot be ignored but a greater danger might be the state of uncleanness which is forced upon the people by the scarcity and cost of water aggravated during dry spells by lack of rain water for clothes and house washing purposes. The difficulty of bringing up children in the habits of cleanliness under such conditions is obvious and it can only be by superhuman efforts on the part of parents that a generation will not grow up who will be strangers to the precept that "Cleanliness is next to Godliness" or "Where there's dirt there's danger"

In February I urged that the scheme for Ruyton should be separated from the scheme for the whole District in view of its urgency, but unfortunately it does not appear to have been possible for this to have been done.

#### Reports of water samples.

<u>Maesbury:</u>	Chlorinated	B. Coli absent in 100 mls.
	Unchlorinated	- - - - -
<u>Nantmawr:</u>	(Untreated)	B. Coli 3 in 100 mls.
<u>Pant:</u>	Chlorinated	B. Coli absent in 100 mls.
	Unchlorinated	B. Coli 90 in 100 mls.
<u>Trefonen:</u>	(Untreated)	B. Coli 50 in 100 mls.
		Faecal Coli absent.



Mardy 2nd Borehole.

Chemical Analysis in parts per 100,000.

Total solid matter in solution .....	25.0
Nitrogen as Nitrates .....	0.1
Oxygen absorbed from Permanganate in 4 hours at 80°F.....	0.004
Free and saline Ammonia .....	0.001
Albuminoid Ammonia .....	0.007
Chlorine as Chlorides .....	1.4
Metallic Impurities .....	Nil

Observations: Appearance - Clear and Colourless. Reaction pH 7.5.  
This sample is very satisfactory, the water being suitable in  
all respects for drinking and domestic use.

SIGNED HAROLD LOWE, M.Sc., F.I.C.

Mardy 2nd Borehole.

Bacteriological Results.

No. of organisms grown on Agar in	3 days at 20°C 3 per 1cc.	2 days at 37°C 1 per 1cc.
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Presumptive B. Coli	Nil per 100 cc.
Faecal Coli present in	-----
Faecal Coli absent in 100 cc.	
Cl. Welchii .....	Absent in 50 cc.

Observations:- This sample is Class 1, the bacteriological  
quality of the sample is highly satisfactory.

SIGNED HAROLD LOWE, M.Sc., F.I.C.

Mardy 2nd Borehole.

Temporary hardness .....	13 deg. Clark
Permant hardness .....	2 deg. Clark
Total Hardness .....	<u>15 deg. Clark</u>

The water is a "hard" one but the hardness is not excessive.

SIGNED HAROLD LOWE, M.Sc., F.I.C.





Rural Water and Sewerage Act, 1944.

The Council approved of a scheme submitted by their Consultant Engineer, Major Waters, to supply the part of the district not already supplied with a piped water supply. Part of the scheme involved co-operation with the Ellesmere Rural District Council, and agreement between the two Councils to join forces for the supply of those parts of their districts adjacent to each other was concluded at the end of the year. The next step will be the submission of the whole scheme for the approval of the Ministry of Health. There is a long way to go before the water will be running through the pipes and refreshing the inhabitants of even the most arid parts of the district.

Drainage and Sewerage.

New schemes were approved by the Council for Morda and Weston Rhyn and schemes under consideration were for Ruyton-Xl-Towns, Pant and Llanymynech.

Milk (Special Designations) Order 1936.

**Number of farms licensed to Produce Tuberculin Tested Milk ..53....**

Number of farms licensed to Produce Accredited Milk .....29.....

Number of Reports received during the year of samples taken.

Tuberculin Tested Milk .....	224
Accredited Milk .....	<u>202</u>
Total .....	<u>426</u>

Number that failed to comply with the standard required under  
the Order.

Tuberculin Tested .....	44
Accredited .....	<u>50</u>
Total .....	<u>94</u>





Licences granted by the Rural District Council.

1. Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Bottling licences in respect of premises Nil.

2. Accredited Milk.

Bottling licences in respect of premises Nil.

3. Pasteurised Milk.

Licences in respect of premises at which  
Pasteurisation is carried out:-

(a) by Holder process ..... 2  
(b) by High Temperature Short Time  
Process. Nil

INFESTATIONS.

Number of dwelling houses dealt with for bug infestation 8.





• 117

117

117

117

117

117